WFGM Announces $1 million investment in zip code 38126

Memphis, TN – The Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis will host a press conference Friday, April 29 at 9:30 a.m. in the Memphis Cook Convention Center Lobby.

WFGM representatives will announce a $1 million investment in 38126, its grantee partners, and new collaborations focusing on the downtown South City community to support their Vision 2020 poverty reduction plan. They will also announce public and private partnerships from financial supporters, including local and national funders such as the Hyde Family Foundation, Walmart, and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

WFGM has played a pivotal role as a backbone organization to Memphis Housing Authority and the City of Memphis in procuring two recent Housing and Urban Development Grants totally nearly $33 million in 2016. Over 21 local organizations joined the collaboration making collective commitments exceeding $22 Million in additional support services.

WFGM is announcing its 22 grantee partners. The invitation-only Request for Proposals (RFP) grant application process was extended to organizations whose projects or continuing programs fall within the WFGM’s mission, and Vision 2020 goals and objectives addressing one or more areas of focus/funding priorities listed below:

Areas of Focus/Funding Priorities

- Adult Education and Training
- Case Management/Wraparound Services
- Early Childhood Development
- Job Skills and Employment
- Youth Development and Employment
- Entrepreneurship
- Financial Education and Asset Building

WFGM’s public and private partnerships will leverage the human capital investment committed to serving residents in 38126. Launched last year, the overarching goal of the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan is to reduce poverty by five percent over five years in this target zip code where 62 percent of adults and 76 percent of children live at or below the poverty line. This is more than double and almost triple the rate of the city consecutively (30%).

Collaborative partners include Urban Strategies Memphis HOPE, Workforce Investment Network Career Services, Shelby County Schools and Southwest Tennessee Community College. Earlier this month, the Memphis Housing Authority (MHA), Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and WFGM met with Foote Homes Residents to kick off ConnectHome, a White House national initiative to provide Internet access in low-income communities through a partnership with T-Mobile. This digital literacy program kicked off with the distribution of 600 tablets to Foote Homes resident. Each household will be provided with free internet access for a year funded in part by the Women’s Foundation. Representatives from each of the above mentioned collaborative partners agreed that it is imperative for families to have access to the internet, enabling them to access basic life needs such as applying for jobs and for children to do homework assignments.

The press conference will take place prior to WFGM’s Annual Tribute Luncheon which will be held Friday, April 29 from 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m. at the Memphis Cook Convention Center Grand Ball Room with keynote speaker Robin Meade, host of HLN’s, “Morning Express w/ Robin Meade.” All proceeds from this event will support WFGM grant-making and the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan.

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Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis—Founded in 1995, The Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis (WFGM) is a non-profit organization of women helping women break the cycle of poverty in Memphis though philanthropy, leadership and collaboration. WFGM helps to serve 17,000 people each year.